

## Media Advisory

For Immediate Release Monday, January 19, 2009 Media Contact: Tom Hudachko Public Information Officer (o)801-538-6232 (m)801-560-4649 After-hours media phone 801-209-2591

## **UDOH Adds Cystic Fibrosis to Newborn Screening Program**

WHAT: The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) will formally announce the addition of

cystic fibrosis to the list of disorders Utah babies are tested for as part of the

Newborn Screening Program.

**WHY:** Cystic fibrosis is the most common life-threatening genetic disorder in the

United States and leads to chronic lung disease, among many other health-related issues. The UDOH estimates the test will identify as many as 25 babies each year who are born with cystic fibrosis. Early diagnosis is a key element in making sure children receive the treatments they need to help fight the disease.

**WHO:** Dr. David Sundwall, UDOH Executive Director

Dr. Jeff Botkin, Newborn Screening Advisory Committee

Steve McDonald, March of Dimes

David Parkinson, parent of children with cystic fibrosis

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009

1 p.m.

WHERE: Children with Special Health Care Needs Clinic

University of Utah Campus

44 N. Mario Capecchi Dr. (formerly Medical Center Dr.)

Salt Lake City